GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2696
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
SMUGGLING OF MAIDS
SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of smuggling of maids to Gulf countries by illegal labour exporting and other agencies has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Goiovernment propose to impose a ban on such maids being sent to the these countries; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): Sporadic complaints regarding cheating of intending emigrants are received against the agencies engaged in the business of recruitment of Indian maids for overseas employment. While some of the agencies against whom the complaints are received, are registered with the Govt. under the Emigration Act, 1983, others are operating unauthorisedly. Complaints generally relate to collection of service charges in excess of the amount provided for under the rules, collection of money from the intending emigrants but not actually sending them for overseas employment, sending some of the workers to the other countries against non-existent jobs and in some cases changing the terms and condition of employment of the workers on reaching the alien land, to theirdisadvantage. During the last three years, the number of such complaints received by the Govt. was as under:
From:

Year	No. of Complaints
1997	91
1998	122
1999	163

With a view to curbing the activities of unauthorised agents, detailed guide-lines have been issued to the State Governments for issue of necessary instruction right upto the police station level for keeping strict vigil on the activities of agents and registration of cases against them.

(c) & (d): The ban on deployment of housemaids and male domestices in Kuwait was imposed by the Government in view of the complaints relating to harassment, non-payment /delayed payment of wages etc. The ban on deployment of male domestics has since been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment.